

IN THE CLAIMS:

All claim amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) A method for delivering a nucleic acid of interest to a mesenchymal stem cell, said method comprising:

administering to ~~the a~~ mesenchymal stem ~~cells~~ cell a recombinant adenovirus of subgroup C, said recombinant adenovirus comprising the nucleic acid of interest and having a tissue tropism for mesenchymal stem cells, wherein said recombinant adenovirus's fiber comprises at least one protein fragment of an adenovirus serotype of subgroup C, and at least a knob domain of a fiber protein of a second adenovirus serotype associated therewith, wherein the second adenovirus serotype is selected from the group consisting of serotype 16, serotype 32, serotype 35, serotype 40-S, and serotype 51; and

infecting the mesenchymal stem cell with the recombinant adenovirus.

29-47. (Canceled).

48. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein said adenovirus serotype of subgroup C is adenovirus serotype 5.

49. (New) A method for delivering a nucleic acid of interest to a mesenchymal stem cell, said method comprising:

administering to a mesenchymal stem cell a recombinant adenovirus of subgroup C, said recombinant adenovirus comprising the nucleic acid of interest and a fiber protein of a second adenovirus serotype associated therewith, wherein the fiber protein provides a tissue tropism for mesenchymal stem cells and the second adenovirus serotype is selected from the group consisting of serotype 16, serotype 32, serotype 35, serotype 40-S, and serotype 51; and

infecting the mesenchymal stem cell with the recombinant adenovirus.

50. (New) The method according to claim 49, wherein administering to a mesenchymal stem cell a recombinant adenovirus of subgroup C occurs *in vitro*.

51. (New) The method according to claim 49, wherein said adenovirus serotype of subgroup C is adenovirus serotype 5.

52. (New) The method according to claim 49, wherein the second adenovirus serotype is serotype 16.

53. (New) The method according to claim 49, wherein the second adenovirus serotype is serotype 35.

54. (New) A method for delivering a nucleic acid of interest to a mesenchymal stem cell *in vitro*, said method comprising:

administering to a mesenchymal stem cell *in vitro* a recombinant adenovirus of subgroup C, said recombinant adenovirus comprising a nucleic acid of interest and a fiber protein, wherein the fiber protein has a tropism for the mesenchymal stem cell and the tropism determining part of the fiber protein is selected from the group consisting of serotype 16, serotype 32, serotype 35, serotype 40-S, and serotype 51; and

infecting the mesenchymal stem cell with the recombinant adenovirus.

55. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein said adenovirus serotype of subgroup C is adenovirus serotype 5.

56. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the fiber protein is serotype 16.

57. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the fiber protein is serotype 35.

58. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the tropism determining part of the fiber protein comprises a knob region from serotype 35.

59. (New) The method according to claim 54, wherein the tropism determining part of the fiber protein comprises a knob region from serotype 16.

60. (New) The method according to claim 55, wherein the fiber protein comprises a tail region of adenovirus serotype 5.

61. (New) The method according to claim 60, wherein the tropism determining part of the fiber protein comprises a knob region from serotype 16.